ECLIPSE INTERNATIONAL
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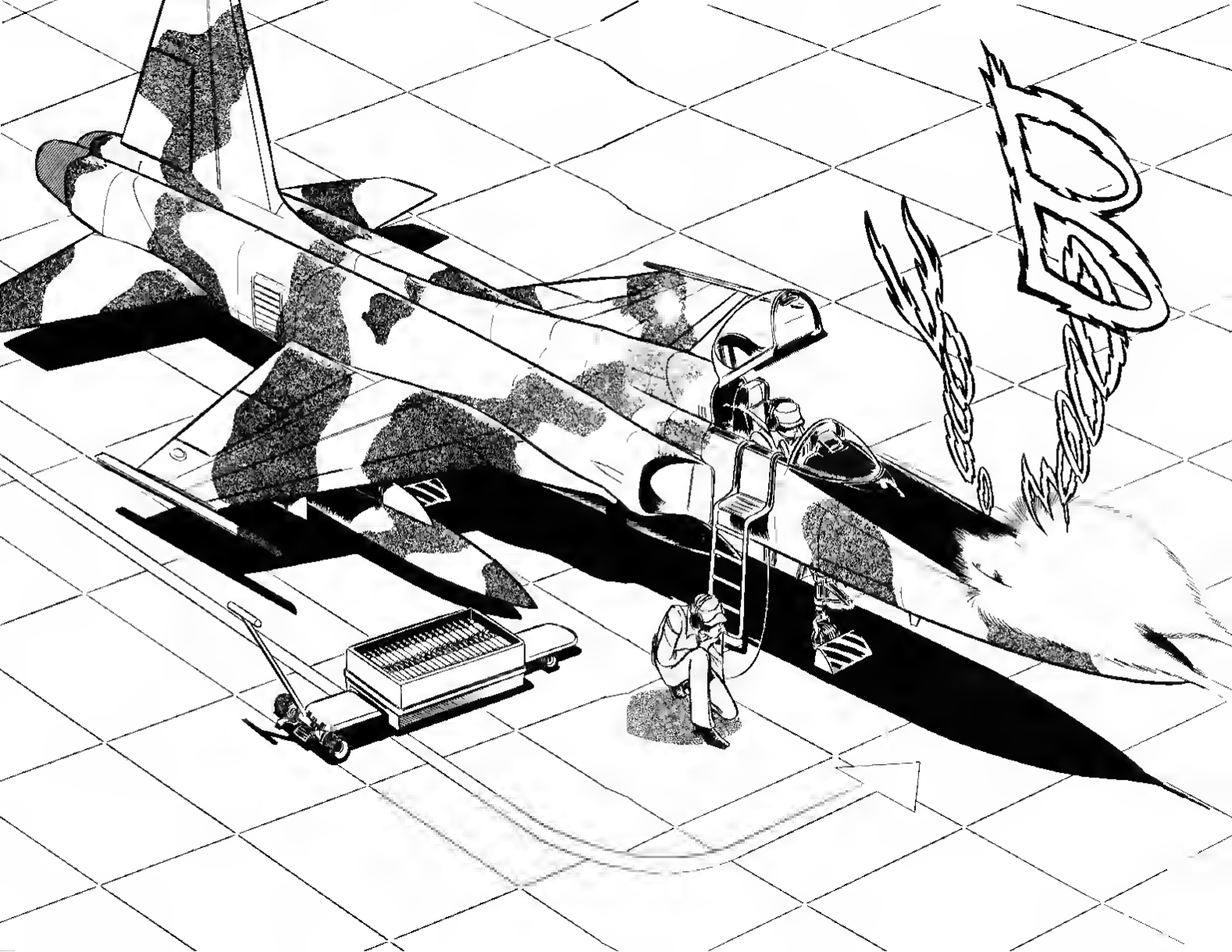
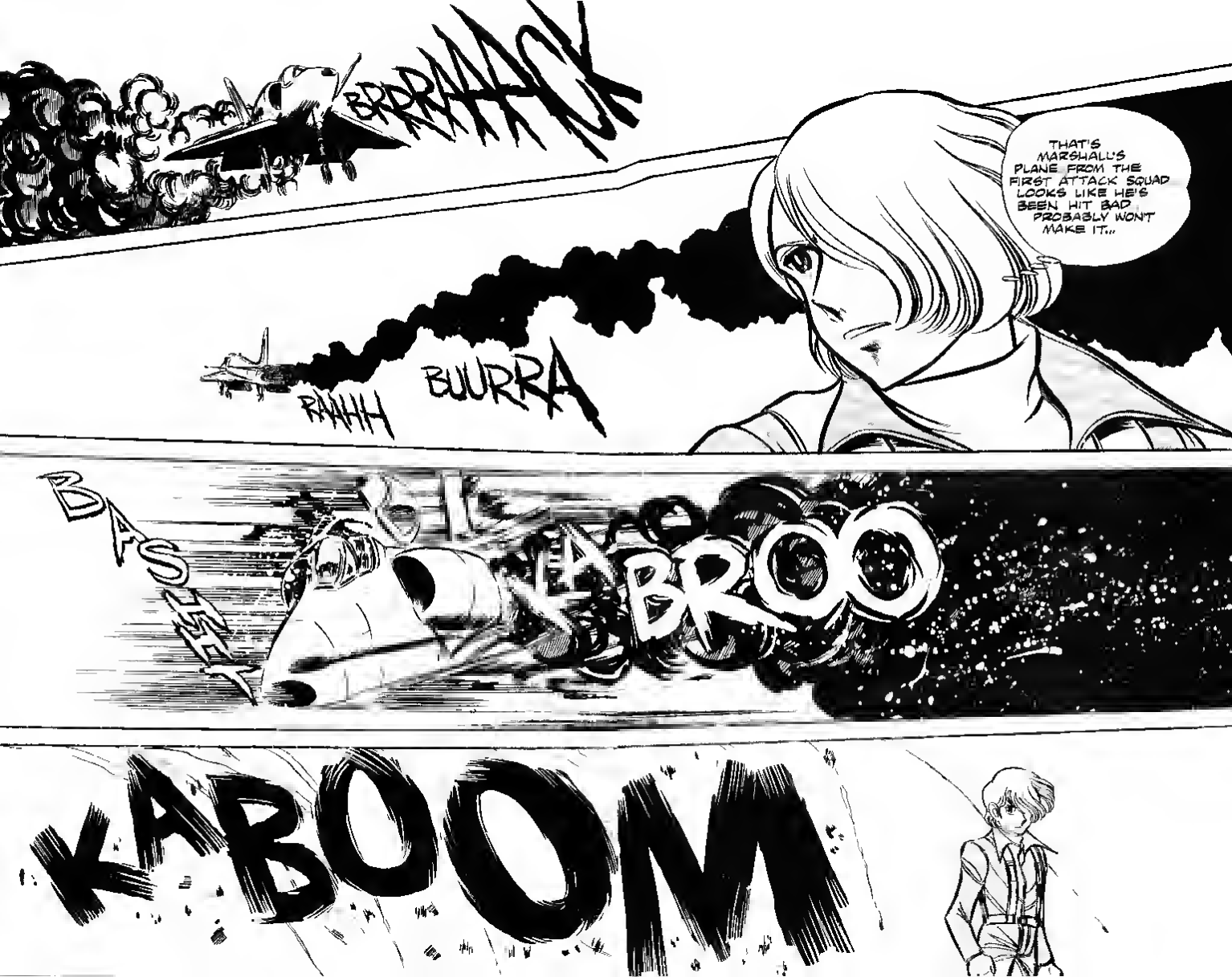
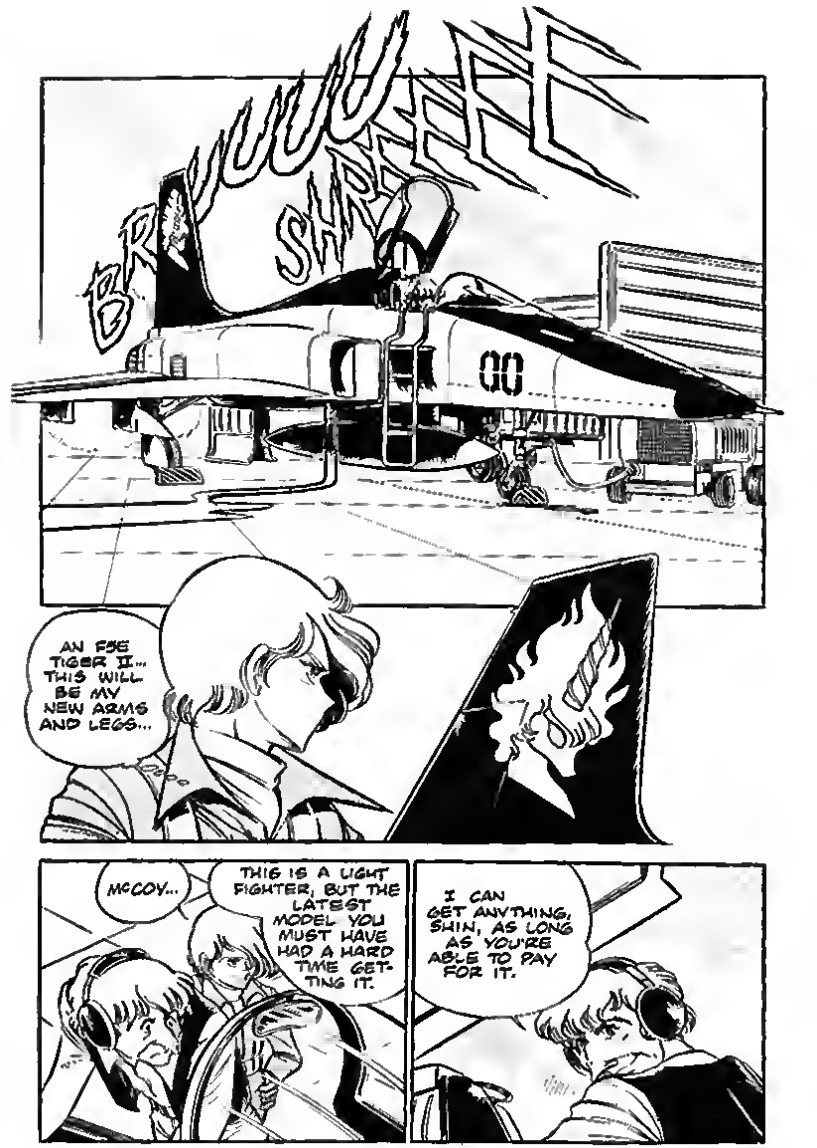
AREA 88
by KAORU SHINTANI
BIWEEKLY
Flying Fiends—
Living like Devils
Dying like Devils
Mercenary Beasts
In Unending War
5
VIZ COMICS

SCANNED BY HIKARU

MISSION 5:
The CROSSING POINT of SOLITUDE



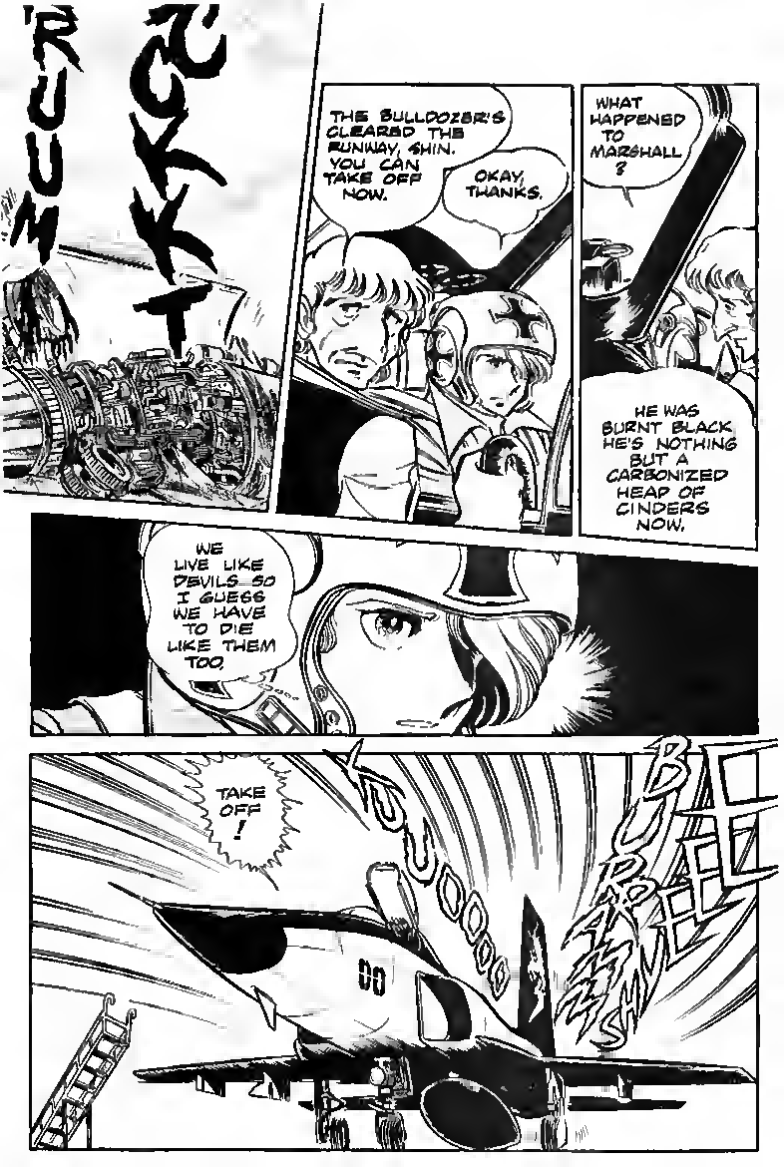

BRRRAACK
THAT'S MARSHALL'S PLANE FROM THE FIRST ATTACK SQUAD LOOKS LIKE HE'S BEEN HIT BAD PROBABLY WON'T MAKE IT...
RAHH
BUURRA
BA-SSSH
BROO
KABOOM

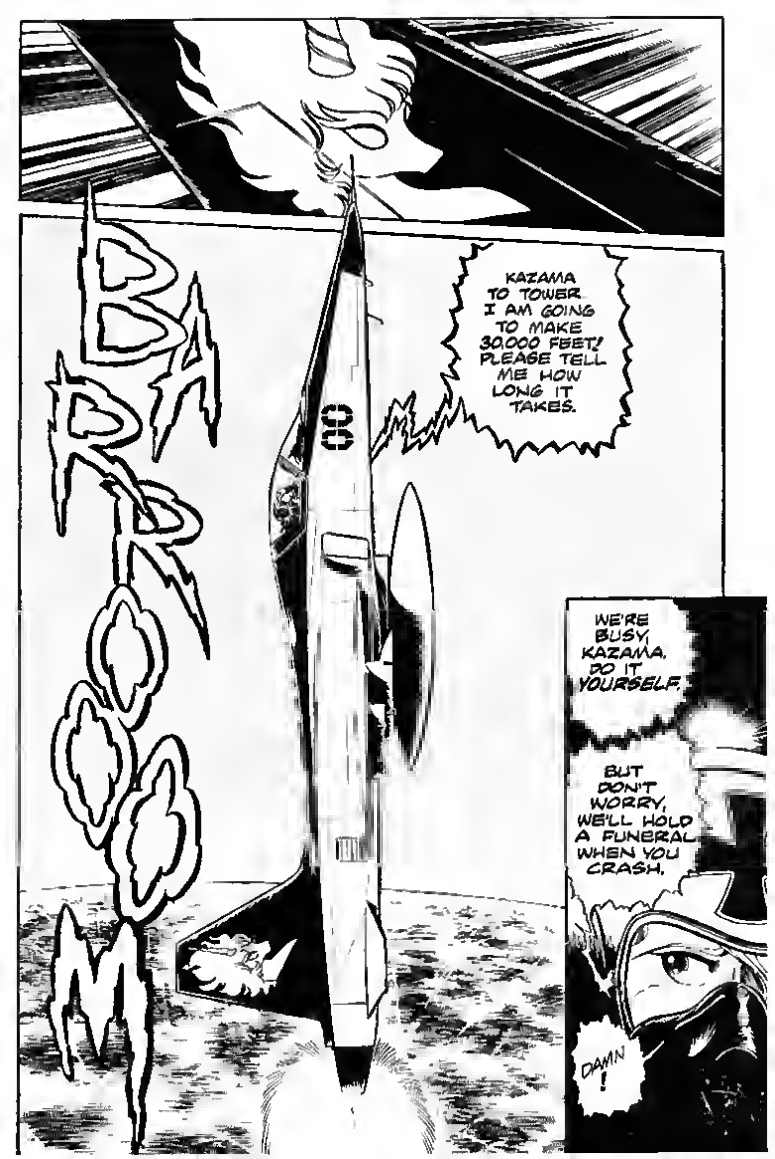

BRAVE SHREE
00
AN F5E TIGER II... THIS WILL BE MY NEW ARMS AND LEGS...
McCOY...
THIS IS A LIGHT FIGHTER, BUT THE LATEST MODEL YOU MUST HAVE HAD A HARD TIME GETTING IT.
I CAN GET ANYTHING, SHIN, AS LONG AS YOU'RE ABLE TO PAY FOR IT.

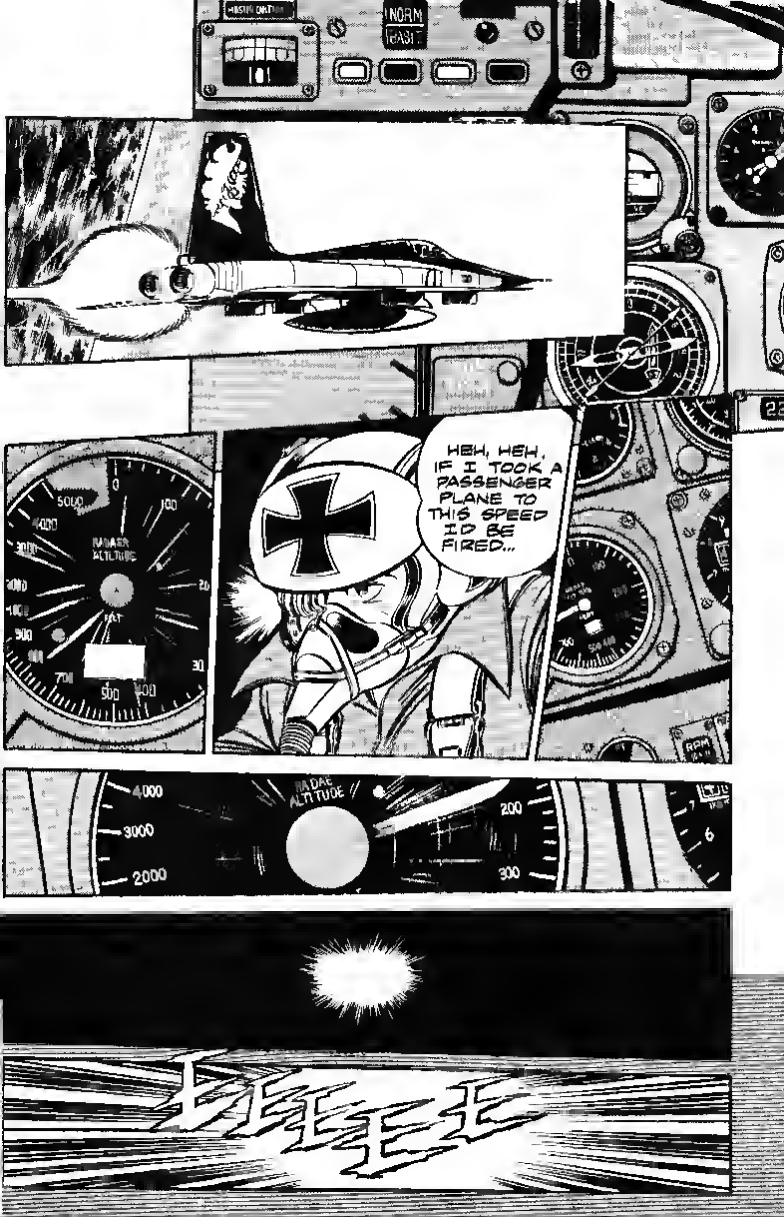
I'VE GOT THE ENGINE RUNNING FOR YOU, LAD. YOU'D HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TAKE HER OUT, BUT NOW MARSHALL'S GOT THE RUNWAY BLOCKED.
HMMM... LOOKS AS IF THE NEXT GUY'S GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE A BELLY LANDING.
BREEE
.....
THAT'S KIRBY. HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT. HE'S USED TO BELLY LANDINGS.
MCCOY, I'M GOING TO RAISE THE POWER. YOU BETTER MOVE AWAY OR YOU'LL BE SUCKED IN.
SHAKK
BRRRR

CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT PARIS
HELLO, KANZAKI.
AIR FRANCE
CAPTAIN NAMIKAWA.
GATE 27
THEY DECIDED TO PROMOTE YOU TO CAPTAIN. YOU'LL BE WEARING FOUR STRIPES ON YOUR SHOULDER SOON.
CONGRATULATIONS, YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE YOUNGEST CAPTAIN FOR OUR AIRLINE.
I OWE IT ALL TO YOUR GUIDANCE, SIR. THANKS FOR EVERYTHING.
NO, IT'S DUE TO YOUR SKILLS AS A PILOT.
THAT STINKING PIG! HE'S THE ONE WHO FOUGHT MY PROMOTION TOOTH AND NAIL... HE SAID I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH SKILL, WAS TOO YOUNG...

BY THE WAY, I WONDER HOW KAZAMA IS DOING...
HE WAS A GOOD PILOT... IF HE STAYED WITH OUR AIRLINE, HE'D HAVE BECOME A CAPTAIN, JUST LIKE YOU.
Y-YES...
I GREW UP WITH HIM IN THE SAME ORPHANAGE, AND EVEN AFTER ALL THOSE YEARS, SOMETIMES I STILL COULDN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT WAS ON HIS MIND.
GATE 2
GATE IN
IS THAT SO? WELL FOR ME, IT'S HARDER TO FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.
.....
TODAY'S FLIGHT TO TOKYO IS GOING TO BE YOUR LAST FLIGHT AS A CO-PILOT SEE YOU ON THE PLANE...
SHIN KAZAMA... HE'S PROBABLY DEAD BY NOW...
DEPARTURES
TIME GATE DESTINATION
17:55 20 HONOLULU
12:5 21 TOKYO
12:20 22 MANILA
13:00 17 TAIPEI
13:00 15 HONGKONG
13:25 23 TOKYO
5:25 24 JAKRTA
5:05 25 GUAM
45 26 BANGKOK
20


SUCCESS
THE BULLDOZER'S CLEARED THE RUNWAY, SHIN. YOU CAN TAKE OFF NOW.
OKAY, THANKS.
WHAT HAPPENED TO MARSHALL ?
HE WAS BURNT BLACK. HE'S NOTHING BUT A CARBONIZED HEAP OF CINDERS NOW.
WE LIVE LIKE DEVILS SO I GUESS WE HAVE TO DIE LIKE THEM TOO.
TAKE OFF !
GUOOOO
BUBBLE SMILE


KAZAMA TO TOWER I AM GOING TO MAKE 30,000 FEET! PLEASE TELL ME HOW LONG IT TAKES.
WE'RE BUSY, KAZAMA. DO IT YOURSELF.
BUT DON'T WORRY, WE'LL HOLD A FUNERAL WHEN YOU CRASH.
DAMN!
BRRR


NORM
RADAR ALTITUDE
HEH, HEH, IF I TOOK A PASSENGER PLANE TO THIS SPEED I'D BE FIRED...
RADAR ALTITUDE
4000
3000
2000
200
300
BEEEE

WHEW!
EEEEEEEE
JET COASTER ENTRANCE
AHHAHAHAHAHA
WASN'T THAT FUN? LET'S DO IT AGAIN!
NO, PLEASE! MY HEART'S ABOUT TO TURN UPSIDE DOWN.
I WAS SCARED!
REALLY? HEH, HEH. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, SHIN.
IS IT STRANGE FOR A PILOT TO BE SCARED ON A JET COASTER?
YES, BECAUSE I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY. I ME. N. A JET FLIES TEN TIMES FASTER THAN THIS RIDE, DOESN'T IT?

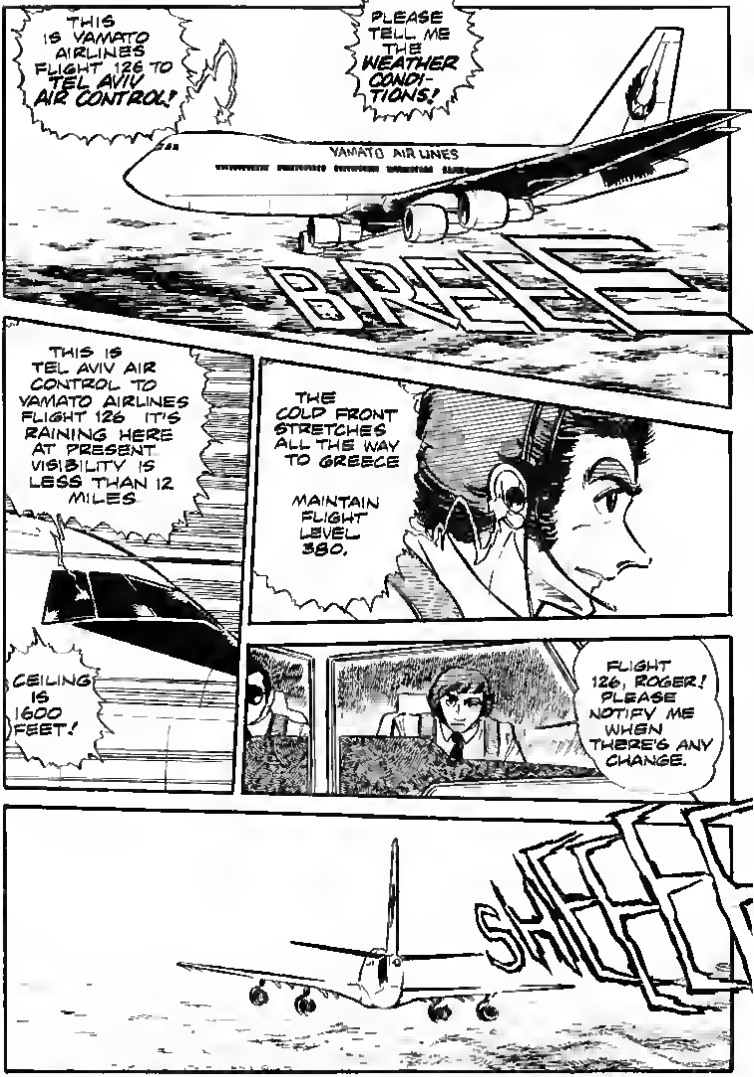
YEAH, BUT IT FEELS TOTALLY DIFFERENT. PLUS, THERE ARE NO METERS OR DIALS, SO YOU DON'T KNOW HOW FAST YOU'RE GOING.
THAT'S OKAY IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GO ON AGAIN, I DON'T EITHER.
IT WOULDN'T BE ANY FUN... WITHOUT YOU.
RYOKO... MY SWEET ANGEL...
BUT THE LAUGHING INNOCENT THAT I WAS IS DEAD...
I'VE BECOME A DEVIL INCARNATE... SMEARED WITH BLOOD AND ASH... BURNED BY THE HOT FIRES OF HATRED...
WAAAOOO

VVOOOO
WE'RE LOSING ALTI-TUDE, KANZAKI!
V-YES...
BR RCCK
SHIT! WHY DO I HAVE TO FLY WITHOUT USING THE AUTO PILOT?!
THE BASTARD WANTS TO TORMENT ME 'TIL THE END...
KANZAKI, THIS IS THE FINAL TEST I WILL GIVE YOU.
SIR?
EVEN THOUGH THIS PLANE IS HI-TECH, IT STILL TAKES A MAN TO FLY IT. THE SAFETY OF THE FLIGHT IS THE MEASURE OF THE MAN.

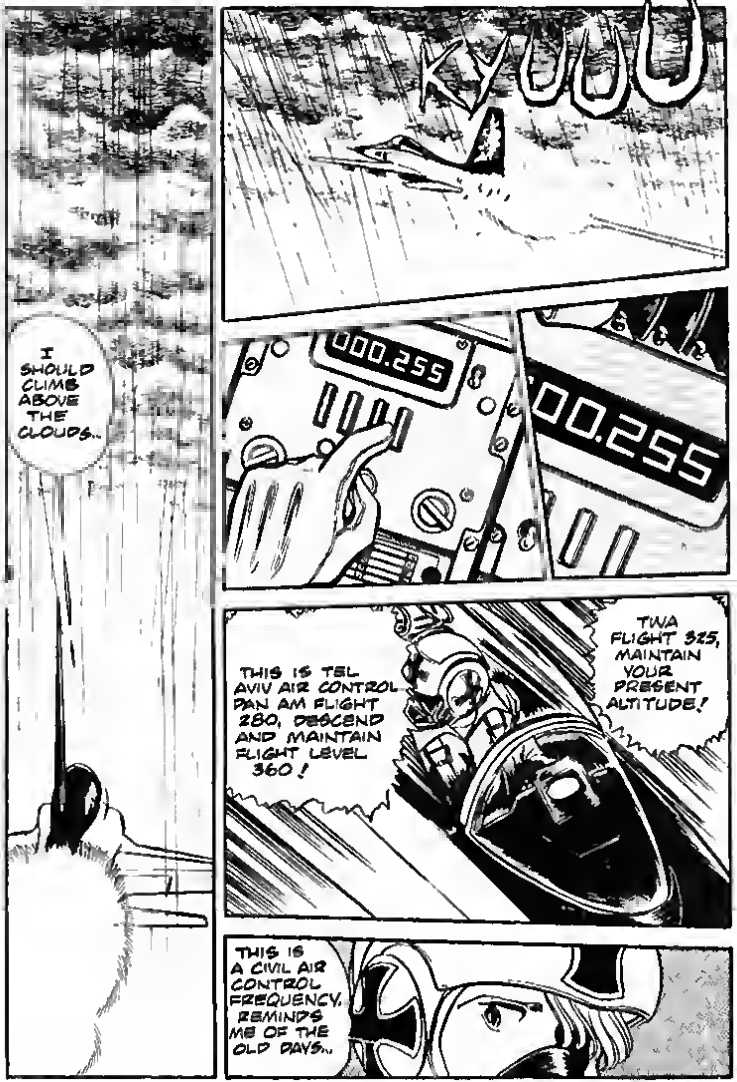
IF YOU CAN PILOT THIS PLANE TO TOKYO WITHOUT THE USE OF THE AUTOPILOT OR ANY OTHER DEVICE, I'LL CONSIDER YOU A REAL CAPTAIN, NO MATTER WHAT ANYBODY SAYS
DAMN!
FINE! I'LL DO THE WHOLE THING ON MY OWN. YOU'LL SEE
YOU STILL HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT SHIN?
MORE THAN A YEARS PASSED SINCE HE TOOK OFF YOU'LL GET SICK IF YOU STAY DEPRESSED LIKE THIS
I CAN'T FIGURE HIM OUT AT ALL...
A GUY LIKE THAT COULD NEVER MAKE YOU HAPPY
THEN RYOKO I WANT YOU TO MARRY ME...
Tearoom
Aiko

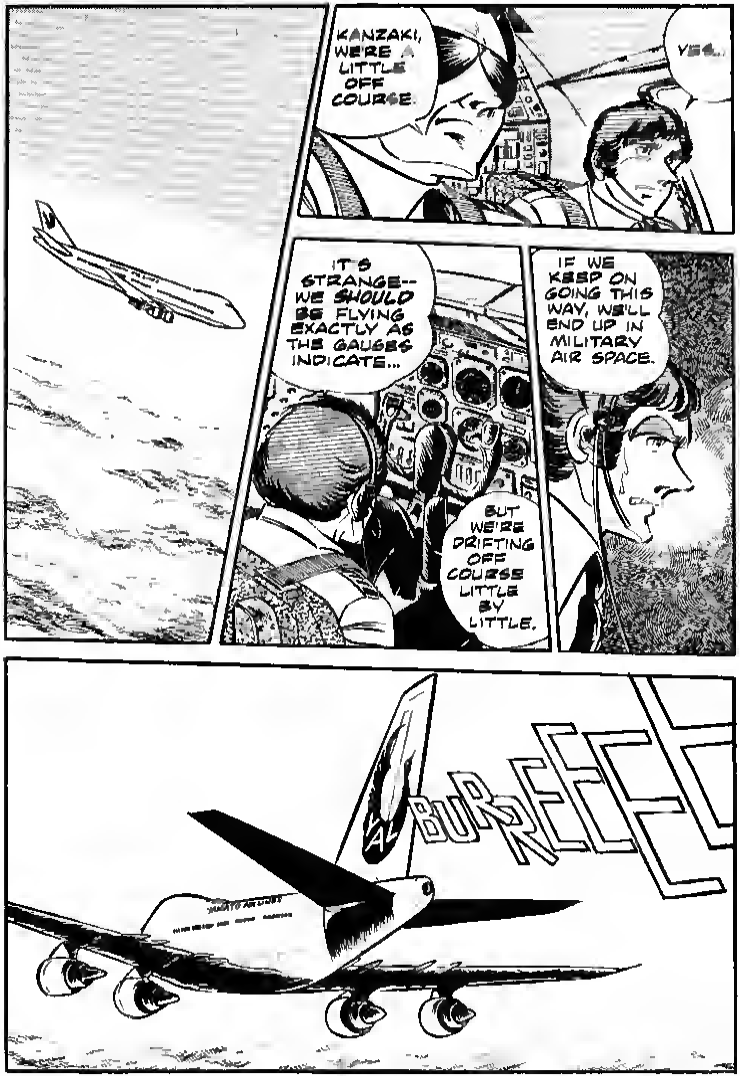
I THINK, FOR WOMEN, HAPPINESS IS HAVING A MAN YOU CAN TRUST FROM THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART...
AND I TRUST SHIN IMPLICITLY.
SO, I AM QUITE HAPPY TO WAIT FOR HIS RETURN
YEAH, BUT WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE'S ALIVE.
I HAVE TO GO. HERE'S THE MONEY FOR MY COFFEE.
NO-- YOU DON'T HAVE TO PAY, RYOKO!
I DON'T WANT TO OWE YOU ANYTHING!

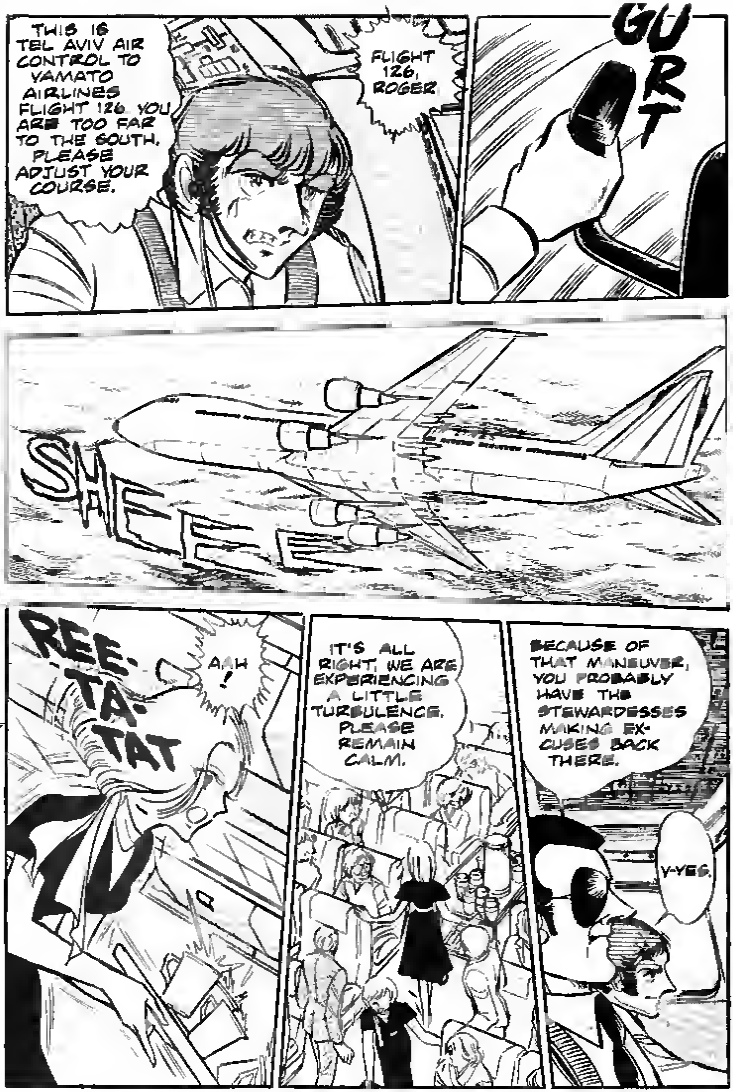
.....
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A TOOL THAT I CAN USE TO MAKE YAMATO AIRLINES MY OWN!
DAMN IT!! SHE JUST MADE A FOOL OF ME! YOU'LL SEE, RYOKO! I'LL MAKE YOU LIE DOWN BEFORE ME...
OH, YES YOU'LL SEE...
WHAT?!
THAT'S ODD... IT'S RAINING OVER THE MEDITERRANEAN
BINK BINK


THIS IS YAMATO AIRLINES FLIGHT 126 TO TEL AVIV AIR CONTROL!
PLEASE TELL ME THE WEATHER CONDI-TIONS!
YAMATO AIR LINES
BREE
THIS IS TEL AVIV AIR CONTROL TO YAMATO AIRLINES FLIGHT 126 IT'S RAINING HERE AT PRESENT VISIBILITY IS LESS THAN 12 MILES
THE COLD FRONT STRETCHES ALL THE WAY TO GREECE
MAINTAIN FLIGHT LEVEL 380.
CEILING IS 1600 FEET!
FLIGHT 126, ROGER! PLEASE NOTIFY ME WHEN THERE'S ANY CHANGE.
SHEE

08
I'M ALREADY OVER THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA...
I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS RAINING HERE...
TIME TO DROP THE EXTERNAL FUEL TANK
BASHA!!


I SHOULD CLIMB ABOVE THE CLOUDS..
KYUUU
000.255
00.255
THIS IS TEL AVIV AIR CONTROL PAN AM FLIGHT 280, DESCEND AND MAINTAIN FLIGHT LEVEL 360!
TWA FLIGHT 325, MAINTAIN YOUR PRESENT ALTITUDE!
THIS IS A CIVIL AIR CONTROL FREQUENCY. REMINDS ME OF THE OLD DAYS..

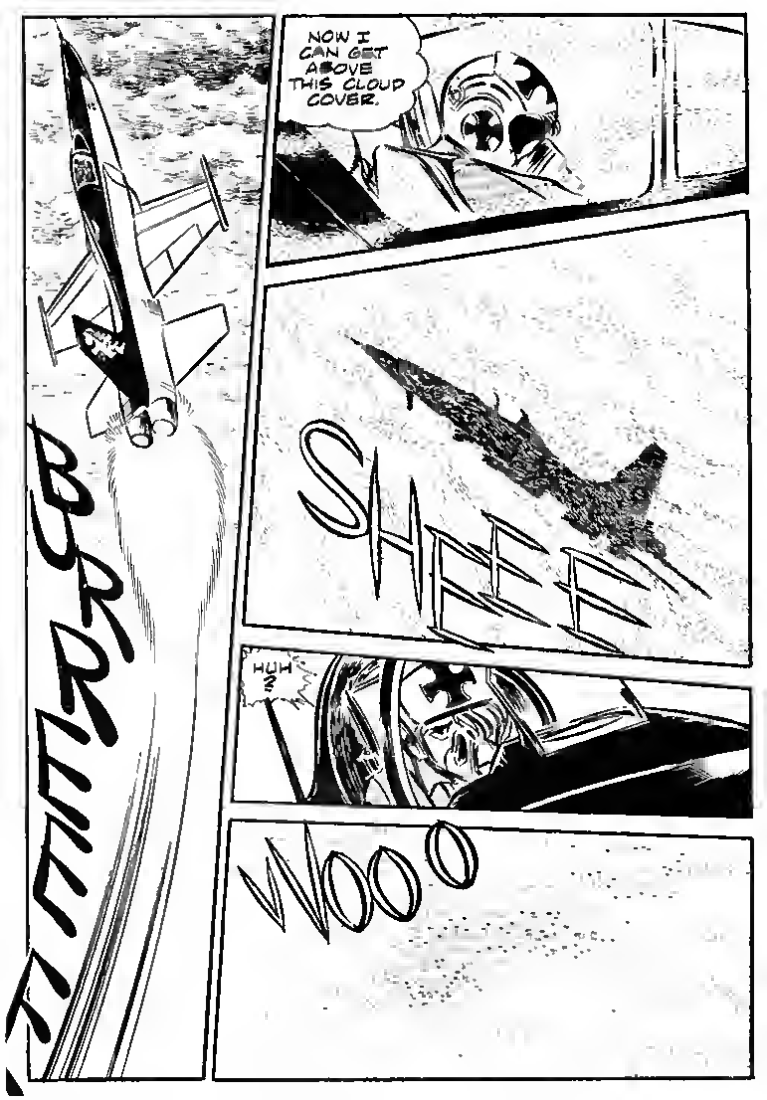

KANZAKI, WE'RE A LITTLE OFF COURSE.
YES...
IT'S STRANGE-- WE SHOULD BE FLYING EXACTLY AS THE GAUGES INDICATE...
BUT WE'RE DRIFTING OFF COURSE LITTLE BY LITTLE.
IF WE KEEP ON GOING THIS WAY, WE'LL END UP IN MILITARY AIR SPACE.
BURRRR


THIS IS TEL AVIV AIR CONTROL TO YAMATO AIRLINES FLIGHT 126. YOU ARE TOO FAR TO THE SOUTH. PLEASE ADJUST YOUR COURSE.
FLIGHT 126, ROGER.
GURT
SHEEEE
REE-TA-TAT
AAH!
IT'S ALL RIGHT. WE ARE EXPERIENCING A LITTLE TURBULENCE. PLEASE REMAIN CALM.
BECAUSE OF THAT MANEUVER, YOU PROBABLY HAVE THE STEWARDESSES MAKING EXCUSES BACK THERE.
Y-YES.

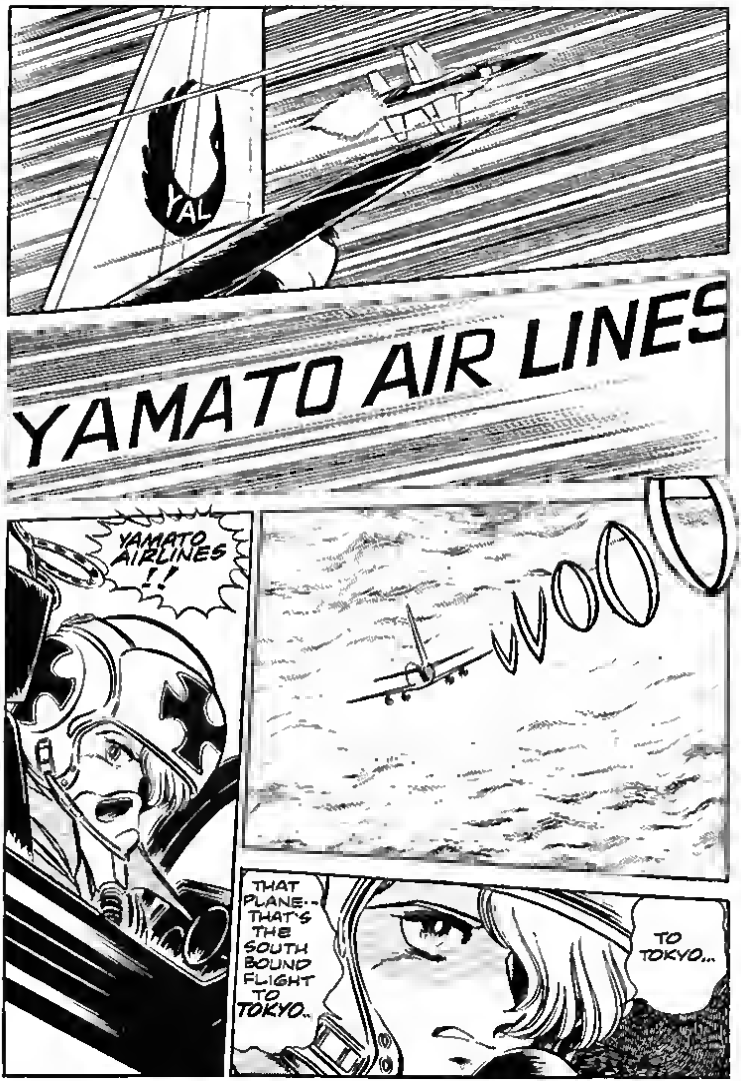
00
...AREA 88 AIR CONTROL! I AM GOING TO FLY ABOVE THE CLOUD COVER AND RETURN TO BASE VIA COURSE TC.
AREA 88 AIR CON-TROL, ROGER.
AREA 88 AIR CONTROL TO KAZAMA. A PLANE FROM THE THIRD ATTACK SQUADRON WAS LOST AND WENT OVER THE MEDITER-RANEAN.
WHAT AN IDIOT!
PLEASE FIND THE PLANE AND GUIDE HIM BACK TO BASE HE OWES ME MONEY FROM A POKER GAME.
ROGER!
DAMN! THIS MEANS I HAVE TO STAY BELOW THE CLOUDS FOR A WHILE

SHEEE
TEL AVIV AIR CONTROL TO YAMATO AIRLINES FLIGHT 126. DESCEND AND MAINTAIN FLIGHT LEVEL 360.
FLIGHT 126, ROGER.
WATCH THE GUAGES CAREFULLY. GOING INTO THE CLOUDS IS HARDER THAN COMING OUT.
IT'S DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE IF THE ALTITUDE IS TOO LOW...
I KNOW THAT!
ZHHHUUU
YAL
UHU
IT

BURREEE
KAZAMA TO AREA 88 CONTROL. IT SEEMS THE GUY YOU'RE LOOKING FOR WENT DOWN IN THE SEA I CAN'T CONFIRM WHETHER OR NOT HE'S ALIVE--
--SO FORGET THE POKER MONEY. ALSO, I'M RUNNING OUT OF FUEL, SO I'M HEADING BACK.


NOW I CAN GET ABOVE THIS CLOUD COVER.
SHEEE
HUH?
WOOO
BRRUUU

YAMATO AIR LINES
YEAAAAH!!
BARAK
WAROOM


YAL
YAMATO AIR LINES
YAMATO AIRLINES !!
WOOO
THAT PLANE--THAT'S THE SOUTH BOUND FLIGHT TO TOKYO..
TO TOKYO...

LINES
THAT PILOT-- HE MUST HAVE CONSIDERABLE SKILL IF HE HADN'T AVOIDED IT, WE'D HAVE ALL BEEN KILLED!
KANZAKI! IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE TOO NERVOUS TO PILOT RIGHT NOW. LET ME TAKE OVER FOR A WHILE
I THINK YOU SHOULD THANK THAT FIGHTER PILOT.
THAT WAS THE SUN FLAG...
I'M GOING TO GO BACK I'LL RETURN TO JAPAN ALIVE!

I'VE SURVIVED 'TIL NOW JUST FOR THAT PURPOSE... TO RETURN.
30,000 FEET ABOVE THE TORRID DESERT... THE AIR AROUND SHIN IS CRISP AND COOL...AND AS SOLITARY AS EVER...